

TWO CENTS.

SCRANTON, PA., MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1902.

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MITCHELL'S ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC

A Communication Partly in Reply to Statements of the Operators.

THE SITUATION FROM A MINER'S STANDPOINT

Mr. Mitchell Declares That the Cost of Living Has Increased to the Point Where the Coal Digger Is Obligated to Ask for Higher Wages. Denies Allegations of Operators That the Productive Capacity of the Mine Workers Has Fallen Off. Says That in the Event of the Union Being Crushed a New Organization Will Rise from Its Ruins—Concludes with Another Appeal for Arbitration.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, today issued an address to the public for publication in the newspapers tomorrow morning. It is partly a reply to the letters of the operators declining to accede to the demands of the union, which were published about ten days ago.

Briefly summarized, the address says that every possible means was resorted to in the effort to prevent the strike, claims that the cost of living has increased to the point where the miner was compelled to ask for higher wages, denies the allegations of the operators that the productive capacity of the mine workers has fallen off, but on the other hand has increased; quotes official figures to substantiate the contention that the employers can pay higher wages without increasing the cost of coal to the consumers; and concludes by asking the public to support the miners.

Further evidence of the ability of the operators to pay increased wages is shown in the sworn testimony of Mr. John Markle, managing partner of the G. B. Markle Coal Company. This operator operates three mines in the Lehigh region and is known as an independent operator.

In the Supreme court of Pennsylvania, in re Markle vs. Wilbur (Pennsylvania State Reports, page 200), Markle was sworn and during his testimony swore that he was appointed superintendent or manager by the articles of copartnership of the company, which was sworn to in 1890, and that under his management, from 1890 to 1894, inclusive, the partnership made large profits of over \$1,000,000.

President Baer's Statement.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., June 22, 1902.

To the Public: If the contest now in progress in the anthracite coal regions of Pennsylvania affected only the welfare of the railroad and mining corporations on the one hand and the coal mine workers on the other, the public would have no vital interest at stake and would consequently be less concerned than it now is in the continuance, the extension and the final settlement of the conflict; but inasmuch as there is a third and important interest involved, which, although in no wise responsible for the present situation, is yet an innocent victim thereof, it is but fair and proper that the general public should be fully and accurately informed upon the merits of the case. Every delay and precaution, every conceivable conciliatory effort that honorable and conservative men could take to avert a rupture, and every means that thought could suggest to bring the matter in dispute to arbitration was resorted to by the union, both before the strike order was issued and since it went into effect, but without avail, the coal magnates replying to all our overtures with the declaration that there was nothing to arbitrate. This statement on their part is equivalent to saying that the coal mine workers have made unreasonable demands and have struck without real or sufficient cause. To this let plain, unvarnished facts and figures reply.

For more than twenty-five long years the anthracite coal mine workers of Pennsylvania have labored and groined under the most intolerable and inhuman conditions of employment imaginable. Their average annual earnings have been less than those of any other class of workmen in the United States, notwithstanding the fact that their work is more hazardous and the cost of living greater than in any other important American industry. The total number of persons employed in and around the anthracite coal mines is 147,000; they are employed never to exceed 30 days in any one year, and they receive an average of \$1.42 for a ten-hour work day. It will be thus noted that they earn annually less than three hundred dollars. Such pay may supply a living on a par with some classes of European laborers; but who will say that it is sufficient to support American citizenship or enable parents to educate and properly maintain their families? True it is that a ten per cent. increase in wages was granted by the coal operators as a result of the two years ago, but it is also true that a large portion of this ten per cent. was paid back to the companies to buy the suppression of an old powder grievance; moreover, according to reliable commercial agencies, the cost of living has increased, particularly in the purchase of foodstuffs, from 30 to 40 per cent. so that the purchasing power of a miner's earnings is less now than before the strike of 1900.

Regarding Productive Capacity.

The presidents of the various coal carrying railroads have given publicity to a statement that during the year 1901 the productive capacity of mine workers deteriorated an average of 12 1/2 per cent.; in other words, the United Mine Workers' organization is accused of encouraging

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GIDDY DECORATIONS ARE PROMISED

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CLOSING SESSIONS OF CONGRESS

Senate Will Devote the Present Week to Odds and Ends of Legislation.

STEERING COMMITTEE ABANDONS RECIPROCITY

Senator Quay Has Given Notice That He Will Call Up His Motion for the Discharge of the Committee on Territories—Other Bills to Be Considered During the Week. Opinion of the House Leaders That the Coming Week Will Be the Last of the Present Session.

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Washington, June 22.—The sessions of the senate during the present week will be devoted to odds and ends of legislation. It was the purpose of the Republican steering committee to make the Cuban reciprocity bill the order of business after the disposition of the inter-oceanic canal bill, but the two Republican conferences have rendered it evident that there could be no reciprocity legislation this session, so the steering committee has abandoned its purpose.

Some interest is manifested in the notice Senator Quay has given that tomorrow he would call up his motion for the discharge of the committee on territories from further consideration of the omnibus statehood bill, in order to secure action on it during the present session, but the understanding now is that he will not press his motion and that the question will go over until the next session of congress, in obedience to the wish of the Republican leaders. Senator Baer, however, has stated that if Senator Quay does not press his motion he (Baer) will move to have the committee discharged and the bill taken up. This motion would bring the question up, but coming from the minority side of the chamber, it would